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NIPP-Related Activities and Events

Second Annual CAPTAP Conference Attracts More than 200 Attendees from 40 States and Territories



The Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP), in collaboration with the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), hosted the second annual Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources Asset Protection Technical Assistance Program (CAPTAP) Conference on June 23-24, 2010, in Orlando, FL. The conference provided a no-cost training opportunity for State and local first responders, government officials, and homeland

security partners. It also showcased cutting-edge, real-world applications to enhance the capability of State and local partners to respond to disasters.

Assistant Secretary Todd M. Keil was the opening speaker. Assistant Secretary Keil described IP's new regional approach and work to help communities make their infrastructure safer and more resilient in the face of hurricanes and other hazards. Mr. Keil reinforced to the State and local attendees that "we need to grow beyond the beltway and concentrate our focus on the communities and companies that form the foundation of our mission – you, and all those you represent here today."

Echoing these comments, conference attendees were pleased with the networking opportunities provided by the event and the opportunity to share experiences and best practices with others in their field. Participants were given a chance to ask questions and discuss critical infrastructure protection issues with their counterparts from across the Nation and with the State Homeland Security Advisors and DHS Protective Security Advisors that were in attendance.

The conference featured an exhibition area and diverse breakout sessions where attendees could learn more about IP's programs and capabilities, including a demonstration of the Automated Critical Asset Management System (ACAMS) that allows State and local partners to capture and display critical infrastructure information. IP recently released ACAMS 3.0 (see related article in this edition of NIPP News) and the ACAMS breakout session was one of the most well attended. State and local partners took advantage of this opportunity to learn firsthand about the enhanced capabilities and features the new release provides to users. Some of the other sessions included discussions on other IP tools and resources such as information on CIKR Risk Basics and Analysis and the National Infrastructure Protection Plan. Demonstrations were provided by New Mexico Tech-Energetic Material Research and Training Center, as well as the RDECOM and University of Central Florida Simulation and Technology Center.

With IP's increased focus on regional partnerships and the strengthened relationships resulting from the CAPTAP Conference, IP is better prepared to respond to the specific needs of its partners and provide the tools and resources necessary to help increase the resilience of our Nation's infrastructure.

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IP Introduces ACAMS 3.0

The Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) is rolling out a new and improved version of the Automated Critical Asset Management System (ACAMS) to State and local critical infrastructure partners. With design upgrades and added features, users can expect enhanced functionality that will make using ACAMS more efficient and increase data reliability.

ACAMS is a secure, Web-enabled information services portal provided to State and local jurisdictions at no cost to help collect and use critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) data, assess CIKR vulnerabilities, develop all-hazards incident response and recovery plans, and build public-private partnerships. With this new release, State and local stakeholders will notice a change in the way they navigate through the system, which will streamline the data entry process and increase their operational efficiency.

Users will see a number of noteworthy improvements in ACAMS 3.0, including:

- Integrated collapsible menus providing the ability to group data more effectively and identify and access asset-specific information;
- More flexible reporting capabilities, including the ability to distinguish Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) views from non-PCII views;
- Establishment of asset relationships to enhance analysis of potential interdependencies and better inform response efforts;
- Geocoding capabilities through iCAV NextGen for better geospatial awareness; and
- Supplementary data fields for schools, hospitals, police stations, and fire departments to help users establish better situational awareness during emergency response.

Many of these upgrades are seamless to the user, but ultimately enhance system performance and overall responsiveness. New baseline data requirements will also ensure the continuity of data collection efforts across the country.

Transition Timeline

IP has worked closely with the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Government Coordinating Council (SLTTGCC) ACAMS Working Group to identify an effective data migration strategy. Together they have determined that a staggered rollout is the best approach to introduce 3.0 to the ACAMS user community.

Starting at the end of June, ACAMS 3.0 will be released to the first group of States and will continue through the fall of 2010. ACAMS users will be contacted prior to their scheduled migration date and provided with additional information and resources in preparation for their migration. These resources have been developed to assist users with any questions and concerns they may have regarding ACAMS 3.0 and the enhanced functionality it provides. For questions about ACAMS 3.0, please contact ACAMShelp@hq.dhs.gov.

IP Participates in the National Urban Area Security Initiative Conference

The sixth annual National Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Conference was held June 21-24, 2010 in New Orleans, LA. The goal of the conference was to bring together individuals involved in UASI programs around the country to exchange information and share lessons learned. Once again this year, DHS coordinated broad-based participation in the conference across the Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP), which included showcasing IP programs at the IP booth and organizing a track on critical infrastructure public-private partnerships. This was the second consecutive year that the UASI Conference featured a track on critical infrastructure-related topics and the conference remains an important venue for IP outreach and engagement with State and local partners.

The IP booth was staffed by representatives from across IP, who provided information on IP programs and highlighted the key relationship of the Emergency Services Sector (ESS) with other critical infrastructure sectors. The booth presence supported “One IP” and promoted implementation of the NIPP and Sector-Specific Plans through the collaborative involvement of IP components connecting directly with the large number of ESS partners attending the conference. The ES Sector-Specific Agency showcased the ESS portal on the Homeland Security Information Network – Critical Sectors (HSIN-CS) and the *Resolve to be Ready* program. Anticipated benefits from exhibiting the IP booth at the UASI Conference include enhanced knowledge of DHS capabilities among partners in the field, increased subscriptions to the ESS HSIN-CS portal, and improved preparedness of first responders as part of ESS’s critical infrastructure protection and resilience initiative.



The Partnership Programs and Information Sharing Branch within IP organized the Critical Infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships track, which included 10 sessions over the course of three days that highlighted successes in building and sustaining public-private partnerships designed to enhance the protection and resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure. IP Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary William Flynn highlighted IP's regional work during the DHS Town Hall session and Charlie Payne of IP's Office for Bombing Prevention spoke about improvised explosive device threats, techniques, and countermeasures. Other speakers included representatives of existing public-private partnerships, government and industry leaders in critical infrastructure protection, DHS Protective Security Advisors, FEMA personnel, and representatives of the DHS Private Sector Office. Partnership presentations spanned national, State, local, regional, and private sector models currently in practice. These partnerships support a broad range of activities across the country, including information sharing, access management, and asset identification, reflecting the recognized need to adapt to emerging threats and take appropriate action to mitigate risks to critical infrastructure.

The moderator-led sessions, with panelist presentations followed by audience questions, allowed for an open dialogue to discuss challenges and effective practices in public and private sector critical infrastructure partnership and information-sharing activities. Challenges identified by the participants included sharing the appropriate type and amount of information with the right people; proving the business case of investing in the protection and resilience of industry assets; ensuring critical infrastructure owner and operator continuity plans are exercised; and measuring the progress of critical infrastructure protection activities.

The presentations in the partnership track identified common features of successful public-private partnerships, including the need to develop and maintain trusted information sharing among partners. Challenges and effective practices identified during the UASI Conference will be documented and shared through the sector partnership and will be used by IP to evaluate its own partnership programs and their effectiveness in the field.

Conference Highlights the Integration of Government and Industry Risk Management Efforts to Achieve Resilience

Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection Todd M. Keil was the keynote speaker on June 17th at a conference on "Achieving Resilience: The Convergence of Government and Private Sector Risk Management Interests across the Homeland Security Enterprise." Sponsored by the Security Analysis and Risk Management Association and the George Mason University Center for Critical Infrastructure Protection, the event brought together over 75 risk practitioners from across government, academia, and industry to discuss challenges and lessons learned for applying risk management principles to the homeland security mission.

Assistant Secretary Keil spoke about the importance of risk analysis to the infrastructure protection mission, called on the group to help DHS conduct all-hazard risk assessments, and urged participants to reach out to regional partners, noting, "That is why, in the Office of Infrastructure Protection, we are committing to a bold new initiative to refocus our activities by pushing our support outside the beltway and into our State and local communities where it is needed the most." Moreover, Mr. Keil said, "We need to continue to make the case to the American people that investing in their infrastructure is not only an important investment, it is a smart investment."


Also speaking at the conference was Bob Kolasky, Assistant Director for Risk Governance and Support in DHS' Office of Risk Management and Analysis (RMA). Mr. Kolasky spoke about the value of risk management for the homeland security enterprise, lessons DHS can learn from industry, and how DHS can best integrate its risk management efforts.

Important News from the Sectors

Dams Sector Regional Resilience Effort Gets Underway

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and public and private stakeholders from the Green River Valley in the State of Washington are collaborating to conduct the 2010 Dams Sector Exercise Series – Green River Valley (DSES-10) in order to address regional disaster resilience issues. The DSES-10 effort focuses on the analysis of short- and long-term regional impacts resulting from a flooding scenario affecting the King County communities of Auburn, Kent, Renton, and Tukwila.

The primary goals of this collaborative effort are to achieve a greater understanding of the potential impacts associated with significant flooding events; identify critical infrastructure interdependencies that influence local and regional disruptions; and assist public and private stakeholders in improving recovery strategies and business continuity plans, thus enhancing regional resilience and promoting robust partnerships at the local and regional levels.





The DSES-10 Initial Planning Workshop was held on April 28, 2010 in Seattle, WA. The workshop consisted of 151 participants, which included 114 Federal, State, and local government representatives, 27 private stakeholders, and 10 representatives from non-profit organizations.

The workshop provided an effective forum to discuss the multiple aspects of the DSES-10 effort, which includes regional baseline assessment activities (to identify, collect, and assess relevant information necessary to characterize the Green River Valley region); regional consequence assessment activities (to assess and evaluate potential direct and indirect impacts associated with selected regional disruption scenarios); and the development of a regional resilience strategy. This strategy will focus on the effectiveness of local and regional recovery planning priorities in addressing impacts and disruptions caused by a significant flood event. A Regional Resilience Tabletop Exercise scheduled for October 2010 will serve a key role in the development of this strategy.

The next DSES-10 event (Regional Baseline Assessment Workshop) is scheduled for June 30, 2010 in Tukwila, WA. For additional information regarding DSES-10, please contact DSES10@dhs.gov.

IP and TSA Collaborate to Enhance CIKR Information Sharing

Access to timely, meaningful, and accurate information is an essential component of risk management – a cornerstone of the NIPP – which requires a melding of resources, capabilities, knowledge, and experience across critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) owners and operators and all levels of government. In accordance with Secretary Napolitano's plan for 'One DHS', the Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) are collaborating to enhance CIKR information sharing. This partnership recognizes the components' overlapping homeland security missions and common stakeholders, and is an example of the proactive use of current technology.

IP and TSA acknowledged their common need to provide secure information to an increasing number of stakeholders to enable these partners to use this vital information to manage their CIKR risks, respond to events, and enhance resilience. IP and TSA jointly identified an existing capability to meet these needs – the CIKR Information Sharing Environment (CIKR ISE). The use of an existing DHS capability enabled collaboration between component missions and the effective use of Federal resources to fund much-needed analysis, rather than developing a separate technology.

IP built and sustains the CIKR ISE to enable informed decisions and timely actions among all CIKR sectors as they execute infrastructure protection and resilience activities. The day-to-day operational sharing of certain CIKR information within the CIKR ISE is supported by the Homeland Security Information Network – Critical Sectors (HSIN-CS). HSIN-CS is a secure, unclassified, Web-based communications system that serves as the primary, nationwide DHS information-sharing and collaboration system for Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) information. Using the governance and operating procedures of the CIKR ISE and HSIN-CS, the Transportation Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center (TS-ISAC) content portal was established.

The common platform shared between HSIN-CS and the TS-ISAC provides tactical and planning functionality for private sector CIKR owners and operators who are nominated and vetted into the system. Password-protected portals are built based on the information-sharing requirements of the stakeholders, and therefore represent a flexible environment that can be scaled appropriately to connect the end user with the content providers. Participants share suspicious activity reports, incident and pre-incident information, mapping and imagery tools, 24x7 situational awareness updates, and analysis of terrorist threats, tactics, and weapons. The accessibility of this information on a secure portal prevents transmission of SBU information via unsecure emails and allows participants to communicate in real time through collaboration tools.

The success of the portal has already been realized in the dramatic increase of users and actual use in the three months following the launch. An increase from 442 to 982 users between March and May represents a 122% increase in the number of stakeholders reached through the system. During this same time, users initiated 1,634 sessions and viewed 8,089 pages, thus reinforcing the value of the content provided through the portal.

For additional information on the CIKR ISE or the nomination and validation process for the TS-ISAC, contact CIKRISEAccess@dhs.gov.

Annual Conference Provides Opportunities for Outreach to Food and Agriculture Sector Partners

The Food and Agriculture Sector and the Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) recently participated in the 114th Annual Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) Educational Conference on June 19-23rd in Norfolk, VA. AFDO is a non-profit organization comprised of Federal, State, and local government officials, industry leaders, and consumers with a mission to build and sustain mutually beneficial, long-term relationships to ensure that critical information on food and drug safety is easily accessible. IP personnel delivered presentations at conference sessions and exhibited the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) booth at the expo portion of the conference.

This annual forum brings together delegates from the United States, Canada, and Mexico to discuss cutting-edge food and drug safety, security, and defense initiatives. Keynote speeches were delivered by Federal, State, and international food safety leaders, including the Food & Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Homeland Security, and representatives from Canadian and Mexican agencies. IP Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Sue Armstrong delivered the DHS keynote address, highlighting several IP initiatives and outreach efforts related to the Food and Agriculture Sector. She noted the success of the Food and Agriculture Sector Criticality Assessment Tool (FAS-CAT) in refining the identification of key infrastructure assets in the sector. In years past, the Food and Agriculture Sector had no assets that qualified as Level 1 or Level 2. More than 90 sector assets were accepted for inclusion on the Level 1/Level 2 lists this year, demonstrating the value of the FASCAT tool to the sector.

There was a high level of interest at the NIPP booth among conference attendees. Following a presentation by William Krueger, IP's Sector Specialist for the Food and Agriculture Sector, visitors to the booth were interested in obtaining more information on the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) and how they could gain access to the Food and Agriculture Sector portal on HSIN.

> Resources Available for NIPP Partners

The free on-line NIPP training course is available at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>. The NIPP trade show booth is also available for sector use. Please contact NIPP@dhs.gov for information on NIPP PMO participation and/or exhibition at an upcoming sector event or to schedule one of the growing cadre of trained speakers who can be deployed to sector events to speak on CIKR issues.

> Implementation Success Stories

The NIPP PMO continues to seek NIPP and/or SSP implementation success stories from the sectors to be shared with other CIKR partners. Please submit any suggestions or brief write-ups to the NIPP PMO at NIPP@dhs.gov.

> NIPP News

NIPP News is a product of the NIPP PMO and NIPP partners are welcome to submit input. If you have any questions about the Newsletter or would like to submit information for inclusion in upcoming issues, please contact the NIPP PMO at NIPP@dhs.gov. Recipients of this newsletter are encouraged to disseminate it further to their CIKR partners.